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C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000800

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [SI](#)

SUBJECT: SLOVENIA IN ADVANCE OF NOVEMBER GAERC

REF: STATE 208899

Classified By: COM Thomas B. Robertson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

- [11.](#) (U) PolEcon Chief met with GOS European Correspondent Peter Grk to discuss reftel points November 18.
- [12.](#) (U) Defense Issues: Grk appreciated USG views on the relationship between the European Defense Agency and NATO. As a small country, it is particularly interested in ensuring no duplication of effort and good cooperation.
- [13.](#) (C) Iraq: Grk thought Iraq, Iran and the MEPP would be the subjects of the lunch meeting. He said the EU was interested in improving its role in Iraq but was not sure if the Foreign Ministers would get into the specifics of offering election monitors.
- [14.](#) (C) Iran: On Iran, Grk expressed GOS concern about recent decisions by the Iranian government on enrichment and thought there might also be some focus on a human rights related declaration on the margins of the GAERC. (Note. Slovenia has a mission in Teheran).
- [15.](#) (C) MEPP: Based on Head of Missions reports out of Tel Aviv (where Slovenia has a mission) that he expected would be circulated at the GAERC, Grk thought there would be a lively discussion on next steps. He said Slovenia was considering contributing police experts to an EU initiative.
- [16.](#) (C) Ukraine, Belarus: Ukraine has been mentioned as a potential mediator and/or "point of entry" for the EU with Belarus. However, the GOS agrees that Ukraine should not be a solo actor and needs to coordinate its moves with the EU and US. Grk added that uncoordinated contacts only help Lukashenko. Involving Russia constructively on this issue is paramount.
- [17.](#) (C) Bosnia: While Grk agreed that a "European perspective" was a great motivator for the western Balkans, and that Slovenia was one of the champions of this approach, we must be careful about any changes to Dayton so as not to "upset the equilibrium." He thought the recent experience of police reform was a good and practical example of how progress can be made. On the new OHR representative, Grk said Slovenia had not decided which candidate to support. He added that while it is clear the EU will be taking on a large role, it was important to work to the goal of local ownership of institutions that would result in a self sustainable state.
- [18.](#) (C) Kosovo: Grk thought Kosovo was not on the agenda for this meeting, but that Ahtisaari seemed to be the right man for the job. He expected negotiations would be difficult and said that "final status has to be earned." Grk hoped this could be done by the end of 2006.
- [19.](#) (C) WTO: Grk said that at the last GAERC everyone had restated their positions on Hong Kong and no progress was made. He did not have much hope for this GAERC moving things forward. He said that while Slovenia's interest in the CAP was limited, it would not break ranks within the EU. He added that the GOS agreed with France on the need for more transparency from the Commission trade negotiator.

ROBERTSON

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